

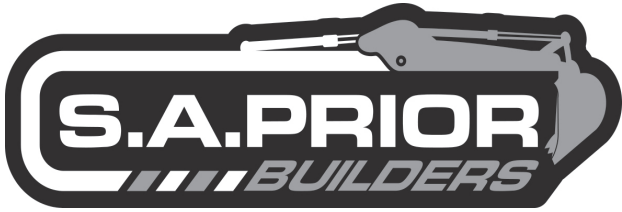
**THE BENTLEY
BUGLE**



**COMMUNITY &
CHURCH NEWS**



ISSUE 103 FEBRUARY MARCH 2025



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Case is Altered

OPENING HOURS

Monday Closed

Tuesday Closed

Wednesday 6pm - 10pm

Thursday 6pm - 10pm

Friday 6pm - 10:30pm

Saturday 6pm - 10pm

Sunday 12pm - 3pm

For more information go to:

www.thecasepubbentley.co.uk

THE BENTLEY BUGLE - COMMUNITY AND CHURCH NEWS COORDINATORS

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The Bentley Bugle is published and distributed bi-monthly on a voluntary basis for the benefit of the local Village and Church community. Information is published in good faith and we reserve the right to edit copy submitted.

Errors and exceptions are regretted.

If you want to view a digital version of the Bugle these are uploaded to the Parish Council website - see bentleysuffolkparishcouncil.gov.uk/the-bentley-bugle/

Front cover

If you have any suitable photos for future issues, please forward to Christine at christine.bugle@gmail.com

COPY FOR THE APRIL - MAY 2025 ISSUE SHOULD REACH **CHRISTINE BY NOON ON WEDNESDAY 19TH MARCH 2025**. Copy can be submitted either on paper or electronically (preferred). Please try to ensure that any copy submitted electronically is in a standard format e.g. .doc, .docx, txt, .jpg, .png, or .pdf and the preferred font is Arial 14pt. Thanks.

Bentley Directory

PARISH, DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILS

Parish Council - Chair	Marianne Munday	07808 259331
Parish Council - Clerk	Joy Scott	01206 298174
Babergh District Councillor	David Busby	07855 777147
County Councillor	Georgia Hall	07955 434445

BENTLEY ORGANISATIONS AND CLUBS

Bentley Primary School		
(Headteacher)	Jo Austin	01473 310253
(Chair Governors)	Simon Hurst simon.hurst@copdock.suffolk.sch.uk	
(Chair PTA)	Sarah Hawley	07894 294319
Bentley Community Pub	Kate Spicer	01473 314187
Bentley Comrades	Ray Savage	01473 311122
Bentley Community Stores	Bob Feltwell	01473 310182
Bowls Club	Lillian Calvert	01473 808652
Carpet Bowls	Jill Mills	01473 311103
Case Book Group	Sandie Utton	01473 328241
Footpath Society	John Wheals	01473 310569
Footpath Warden	Tim Hamstead	07748 821594
Friends of St Mary's	Bob Feltwell	01473 310735
Horticultural Society	Mark Usher	01473 310322
Maritime Football Club	Jon Haines	08442 023130
Parent and Toddler Group	Pam Rayment	07970 741581
Recorders	Moira Usher	01473 310322
Scrabble Club	Robin Owen	01473 311844
Tree Warden	Colin Hawes	01473 310678
Tuesday Club	Veronica Howe	01473 310344
	Catherine Sweeney	01473 310095
Village Hall - Bookings	Veronica Howe	01473 310344
	Mark Usher	01473 310322
Village History Recorder	Nicky Moxey	01473 313125
Whist Club	Veronica Howe	01473 310344
Womens Institute	Sandra Ford	01473 310072

ST MARY'S CHURCH, BENTLEY

Rector	Rev'd Chris Willis	
Benefice Administrator	Michelle Jowers	07955 329341
Benefice email address	michelle@constablebenefice.org	
Churchwarden	Tom Hill	01473 311119
Assistant Priest	Revd Don Mehen	01473 310383

BENTLEY BAPTIST CHURCH ADMIN 07814 465222

Bentley Parish Council website - <http://bentleysuffolkparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

Bentley (in Suffolk) Community Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/292599697915731/>

Other village websites are listed in the publication.

Parish Diary

FEBRUARY 25

- 5th - Comrades - Village Hall - Blackmore Room at 7.30pm
- 5th & 19th - Whist Drive - Village Hall - from 7.30 - 9pm
- 6th - Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall from 7.30pm
- 8th - Food Vendor - Mac N' Cheese - Case is Altered 5 - 8pm
- 8th - Live music - following the above - see 'Case Notes' for details
- 11th & 25th - Tuesday Club - Village Hall at 2.30pm
- 12th - Bentley Bluebells WI - Village Hall at 7.30pm
- 13th & 27th - Scrabble Club - Village Hall, Blackmore room at 2.30pm
- 19th - Community Lunch - Case is Altered from 12pm
- 21st - Horticultural Society - Village Hall at 7.30pm
- 22nd - Monthly Quiz - Case is Altered at 8pm

MARCH 25

- 5th - Comrades - Village Hall - Blackmore Room at 7.30pm
- 5th & 19th - Whist Drive - Village Hall - from 7.30 - 9pm
- 6th - Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall at 7.30pm
- 8th - Food Vendor - Wok n Roll - Case is altered from 5pm
- 8th - Live Music - following the above - see 'Case Notes' for details.
- 11th & 25th - Tuesday Club - Village Hall at 2.30pm
- 12th - Bentley Bluebells WI - Village Hall 7.30pm
- 13th & 27th - Scrabble Club - Village Hall, Blackmore room at 2.30pm
- 19th - Community Lunch - Case is Altered from 12pm.
- 21st - Horticultural Society - Village Hall at 7.30m
- 29th - Monthly Quiz Night - Case is Altered at 8pm

Other Activities in the Village

- Toddler Group - Mon & Weds 9.30am to 12 noon (term time only) Village Hall
- Holistic Yoga - Every Mon 7.30 - 10.00pm - Village Hall
- Aerobics Class - Tuesday 9.45am (Term Time only) - Village Hall (contact Jill Sharp for information - 01473 311546
- Carpet Bowls - Every Tuesday 7.30pm & Weds 2.30pm - Village Hall
- Coffee at the Case - every Friday between 10.30 and 12.00 noon.

BENTLEY VILLAGE AT CHURCH NEWS

SERVICES IN FEBRUARY 2025

Sunday 2nd 10am Connect at Brantham with Rev Chris Willis
Sunday 9th 10am Morning Worship with Communion
Sunday 16th 10am Morning Worship
Sunday 23rd 10am Morning Worship with Communion

SERVICES IN MARCH 2025

Sunday 2nd 10am Connect at East Bergholt with Rev Chris Willis
Sunday 9th 10am Morning Worship with Communion
Sunday 16th 10am Morning Worship
Sunday 23rd 10am Morning Worship with Communion
Sunday 30th 10am Morning Worship for Mothering Sunday

SUNDAY SERVICES

If you would like to help at one of the services by doing a reading or leading the prayers please let us know. New voices are always welcome. Please speak to any one of the people listed below.

EAST VILLA

Thank you for all the donations of items throughout the year that we regularly take to East Villa for those made homeless. Thank you for the Christmas gifts that were received at the Christingle service. Please contact Sandra Mehen on 01473 310383 for any further information for any donations of towels and bedding for East Villa.

Christmas and December is a busy month for the church and we hope you were able to join us for a service and also see the decorations over this time as they were so pretty. We hope you enjoyed meeting our special visitor at Christingle and we hope to see him again this year! The service was a little different as people made their own, a fun time was had by adults as well as the children who came.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY – After a successful Easter Bingo in 2024 we have decided to host it again.



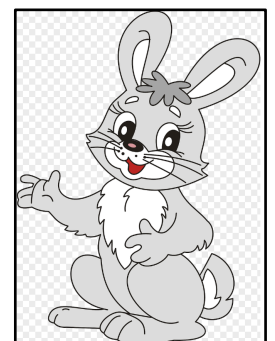
EASTER BINGO Saturday 12th April 2025

Doors open at 7pm to start at 7.30pm
£5 per person.

Bring your own drinks and snacks.

We will hold a raffle.

Raffle prize donations greatly appreciated.



We will need an indication of numbers so please contact Alison Partridge nearer the time – look out for posters for further details



ST MARY'S CHURCH, BENTLEY

It costs £300 a week to keep your beautiful and historic church open. One way to support us is by giving via this QR code using your smartphone. There is also a link in the church building. Thank you for your support. It means a great deal to us as we try to keep the Church in good repair.



Church Contact Details for Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals or other enquiries

Church Warden – Tom Hill – 01473 311119
Rector Constable Country Benefice – The Rev Chris Willis
Via Administrator – Michelle Jowers – michelle@constablebenefice.org
Assistant Priest – Rev Don Mehen – 01473 310383
Treasurer – Ken Felgate – k.felgate108@btinternet.com
PCC Secretary – Sandra Mehen – 01473 310383

BENTLEY CARPET BOWLS

The last two matches before the Christmas recess saw us travel to Chelmondiston and Belstead. At Chelmondiston we once again failed to overcome the difficulties of their uneven floor and lost 2-8.

Against Belstead we played quite a lot better than we have done in the past and managed to win one mat and draw on another however we still lost 3-7.

After all the excesses of Christmas we returned to play Elmsett at home. This was a match which saw some of our old failings re-appear when we lost multiple shots at the end of games resulting in a 4-6 loss in a match we definitely should have won!

Our next three matches are against Chelmondiston at home and Hintlesham and Copdock away. **David Howe**

TUESDAY CLUB

Welcome to the first news report 2025, we hope that everyone had a lovely Christmas and we wish you all a Happy New Year.

In November 2024 Sonya was to give a talk on 'Drought Gardening' but due to ill health was unable to attend. Pip Wright gave a very interesting talk about 'It Happened Here in Suffolk'. Griff John's tested the Members general knowledge with a Quiz and the last outing of the year was to The George at Hintlesham for our Christmas Lunch. Finally on 17th December we held our Christmas Party, Brian Mann entertained us with a variety of Christmas Songs. A delicious buffet was provided by the Members, thank you to all those who contributed the food. All Members left with a gift from the Secret Santa.

Last year was packed with speakers and entertainers and I hope the 2025 programme will have something to please you all. 14th January 2.30pm our AGM will be held. Mandy our new Chair Aerobics Instructor will pop in to meet the members. Veronica and I would like to thank Frazier our previous instructor who left due to increased work load. On 28th Jan at 2.30pm we welcome Gwynne who will sing and on 11th February we welcome back Lorri & Gray Singers and 25th February Mike will give a talk about more fire preventions. On the 11th March, 2.30pm we have the Song Birds who are female Singers and on 25th March we have Nicky who will talk to us about the Women's Land Army.

This is just a few of the events to come in the weeks ahead., so please pop in and have Tea, Biscuits and a chat you will be very welcome. **Catherine Sweeney, Secretary**

FOOTPATH SOCIETY

As usual we will resume the walks in April and hope for better weather this year.

Thanks **John Wheals 01473 310569**

BENTLEY BOWLS CLUB

Our season will be starting shortly with roll up towards the end of April. We play in the Samford League on a Monday evening and Ipswich and District Triples League on a Wednesday evenings. All games start at 6.45pm but if all players are present we will start early.

Our quiz this year will be on **Saturday 3 May** in Bentley Village Hall starting at 7.00pm. We shall have our usual buffet and bar with Bill and Simon once again setting the questions. Tickets will be available nearer the time. We hope you will come and support us as this brings in much needed funds to keep the green in good order.

There has been a bowls club in Bentley Village for over 100 years and we would like this to continue so **WE DO NEED MORE PLAYERS**. If you would like more information please contact me by telephone at the number below or bentleysuffolkbowlsclub@gmail.com.

The entrance to the green is in Grove Road just passed the Old Postmasters House and the new build. **Lillian Calvert Secretary 01473 808652**



AN INVITATION TO ALL VILLAGERS

...



At a loose end on a Friday?

A reminder that the Case pub is open every **Friday from 10.30am to 12.00** for coffee and biscuits.

We ask only a small donation.

All are assured of a warm welcome. *(The pub is nice and warm too.)*

The Bentley Events Diary 2025

Is your group/organisation planning a public event for 2025? If you are then you may find it useful when choosing a date to have a look at the new Bentley Events Diary.

The aim of the diary is to enable groups within the village to arrange events so they do not coincide with other groups; thereby attracting the best possible audience numbers. The diary will be kept at **Bentley Stores**. Please enter your event on the appropriate page giving the group's name, the time and location for the event.

The use of a village diary has been discussed for a few years now and we hope you and your organisation will find it helpful when planning an event.

BENTLEY (SUFFOLK) HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

A Happy and Healthy New Year to everyone! The monthly meetings for February and March are as follows;

21st February 2025 - Trees for all seasons by Jim Payne

21st March 2025 - Pruning by Susannah Sharman

The meetings are held in the Village Hall and commence at 7.30pm All are welcome.

Just a reminder - the snowdrops will soon be in bloom followed by crocuses and aconites - keep a look out for places open to see these harbingers of spring.

Pam Lovell

WI BENTLEY BLUEBELLS



Our last meeting of the year 2024, our guest speaker, Angela Ashford, had the group, creating wreaths and baubles with sea glass and other precious stones.

The group really enjoyed it.



There will be a leaflet enclosed in the magazine with the program for the year. May 2025 brings you happiness.

Ladies, we are always open to new members. For more information, please contact our secretary Emma on +447485017293.

The Case Community Lunches

Following the positive feedback from the Lunch held on the 15th January we are pleased to say two more lunches will be held on

**Wednesday 19th February and Wednesday 19th March at
12.00 for 12.30pm. Price £12 pp**

The menus for February will be chicken hotpot and trifle (veggie alternative available). The menu for March is yet to be decided.

Places are strictly limited and booking is essential. If you can, please come to the shop to put your name on the list rather than telephoning as the volunteer serving may be busy.

NOTES FROM THE CASE



Suffolk's first Co-operative Pub!
Tel: 01473 805575
<http://www.thecasepubbentley.co.uk/>
<https://www.facebook.com/TheCaseBentley/>
email: chair@thecasepubbentley.co.uk



If you are feeling the cold then why not come and join us, you will always find a warm and cosy welcome at the Case. We have lots to keep you entertained during the dark winter months and into early spring.

Live Music at the Case

February and March sees the return of more live music to the Case! On **Saturday 8th February** (following Mac n Cheese) we have John Campbell and Friends to entertain you with Booze and Blues. To further brighten your winter evening on the **8th March** we have a local duo HIPPIDI performing for us (following Wok n Roll). Dave and Poppy (HIPPIDI) start around 8.15. For more information see posters around the pub closer to the time.

Open Mic Nights

Each month our Open Mic Night continues to attract new performers. It is held on the **second Thursday** of each month. The bar opens at 6pm; the music will start around 8pm. All are welcome whether you are a performer or simply there to listen and watch. For more information contact Dave on 07885 963882. The next two dates are **Thursday 13 February** and **Thursday 13 March**.

Quiz Nights

Our Quiz Nights are extremely popular and are held on the **last Saturday** of the month. Why not come along and test your knowledge against our quiz master. £2 entry per person, maximum team size 6. The winning team receives tokens to spend at the pub; the lowest scoring team get a wooden spoon! All profits from the quiz and raffle to our current charity of the year, the **Alzheimer's Society**. If you would like to set a quiz, contact Chris at cottage.garden@btinternet.com and we'll add you to the list. The next quiz is on **Saturday 22 February** and the following month it is **Saturday 29 March**.

Street Food

Our regular monthly street food vendors are all set to continue throughout 2025. On **Saturday 8 February** between 5pm and 8pm we welcome back **Mac N' Cheese**. As always pre-order your food by contacting them through their Facebook page or email macstreetkitchen@gmail.com

On **Saturday 8 March**, we will be hosting another local mobile food vendor, **Wok n' Roll**. They will be serving their finest and tastiest, authentic Chinese noodle bar cuisine. To pre-order please contact them via their website www.woknroll.co.uk or call them on **01255 674188**. For each of these events please look out for more information around the pub closer to the date or on our website and Facebook page. **As always, food can be eaten inside the pub from 5pm. Please bring your own cutlery if you wish too. Families welcome.**

Community Lunches

Due to the great success of our January community lunch we will be holding the same again on **February 19th and March 19th**. These lunches are open to any member of the community who wishes to spend some time with friends or make new acquaintances. To book your place please sign up using the form in Bentley Stores. **Places are limited.**

Friday Friends Coffee mornings

We are now into our second year of offering this facility every week. Come along to the Case **Friday mornings between 10.30am and 12pm** for a cup of tea or coffee (and usually a biscuit or two). As with the community lunches it is open to all.

Christmas at the Case

It may already seem like a lifetime ago but we had a great Christmas at the Case and would like to thank all our volunteers (and not just the bar volunteers) who supported us and enabled us to open right across the holiday period. We'd also like to send out a special **THANK YOU** to all who bought tickets for our Christmas Raffle and to those who worked so hard to gather all the great prizes. The raffle this year was in aid of our charity of the year, the **Alzheimer's Society**. Ticket sales for this and donations raised an incredible **£808**. So once again thank you for your support.

Spring Skip

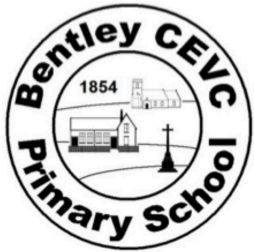
Collins Skip Hire has very generously offered a week's hire of a **3 cubic yard skip, currently worth £230**. We will therefore be holding a Silent Auction for this great prize. The winner will be able to choose the date of hire, during 2025. The money raised will be part of our fund raising for our charity of the year, the **Alzheimer's Society**. If you have a garden to clear, want to have a really thorough tidy up or just want to do a little decluttering then please look out around the pub for more details of how to enter. *No monetary option is available.*

Our Charity 2025

Do you have a favourite charity that you would like to see us support for 2025/2026? If you do, then please contact us to discuss what you have in mind. Some support to fund raise for your charity would be most welcome, obviously the more events the more we can raise.

We hope to see you soon!

NEWS FROM BENTLEY & COPDOCK PRIMARY SCHOOLS



Bentley Primary 01473 310253
admin@bentley.suffolk.sch.uk

Copdock Primary 01473 730337
admin@copdock.suffolk.sch.uk

<http://www.bentleycopdock.co.uk/>



This term we have attended some sporting events; our older children took part in a Basketball tournament at Inspire, and we have had girls' football and dodgeball competitions.

Bentley School celebrated Epiphany at Church. Having made crowns for this special day, it was lovely to wear them as part of our celebration in a service at St Mary's Church with our families. Thank you to the children who enacted the visit from The Kings and the adults for sharing the story from the Bible.

School Music lessons re-started in the Spring term, and we will be showcasing what children have been learning to our parents at the end of term.

School Governors visited the school for a day in January and took part in lessons which they, and the children, enjoyed.

We are looking forward to joining the Big School's Birdwatch and finding out which birds visit our school grounds.

If you are still looking to apply for a Reception place at either school, please contact us on the numbers or email above.



WILDLIFE NOTES

Our Adders Need a Cunning Plan

I have been fascinated by snakes for as long as I can remember so I was shocked to learn that about one third of all adults have a fear of snakes. Maybe this helps to explain why snakes often fail to get sympathetic media coverage at a time when they need our help.

In Suffolk we have two native species of serpent, the **barred grass snake** and the **European adder or viper**.

Grass snakes are the longest snakes found in Britain with large females measuring up to 1.5 metres (5 feet) long. They are non-venomous and easily recognised by their distinctive yellow collar on an otherwise grey-green body. They can sometimes be found in gardens particularly those with ponds as they frequently feed on amphibians



Grass snakes can grow to 1.5m

and fish. In early summer female grass snakes lay 10-40 eggs in warm, damp, decaying vegetation such as compost heaps, the hatchlings emerging in August or September. Although grass snakes are legally protected their numbers are believed to have declined in recent decades.

Adders have a distinctive dark zig-zag pattern down the length of their back. Being mildly venomous this species has gained an undeserved reputation for being fearsome and aggressive but in reality, they are timid and retiring. The last recorded death from an adder bite in Britain was almost 50 years ago.



A basking Minismere adder

Most bites that do occur are preventable; common causes being people accidentally stepping on them, antagonising them or attempting to pick them up. Adder bites are painful and cause inflammation, medical attention should always be sought immediately. The consequences for dogs that get bitten are usually more severe with around a 5% fatality rate. Keeping a dog on a lead where adders are present is the best way for owners to keep their pet safe.

In 2019 a nationwide survey of adders concluded that the species will disappear from most of the countryside before 2040 unless we take urgent action to protect it. A combination of habitat loss, habitat fragmentation, persecution and disturbance have all contributed to their decline. Fortunately, Suffolk still has some significant adder populations. On warm, dry mornings between February and October the snakes can often be seen and photographed at RSPB Minsmere. The reserve's "Adder Trail" is also one of the best places in the country for spotting an extremely rare melanistic black adder. This spring I caught up with RSPB volunteer and self-confessed adder addict Davene Everett to get an update on Minsmere's adders. "This year the males were out very early – we saw our first one on the 3rd of February," Davene told me. "The males come out of hibernation about 6 weeks before the females, and spend this time basking in the sun to improve their fertility" she explained. "Once the females are above ground the males become much more active, using their flickering tongue to pick up scent particles and follow the female's pheromone trail. In the same way that our two ears pick up different sounds a snake's forked tongue can detect varying amounts of scent on each fork allowing them to determine which direction the aroma is coming from. In effect they can taste in stereo!"

Adders are live bearers; the pregnant females give birth around August but then leave their offspring to fend for themselves.

If future generations are to enjoy the thrill of spotting a wild adder in the Suffolk countryside urgent action is required to protect them or as Baldrick might suggest – we need a cunning plan. **Article and photos by John Boyle**



A grass snake in Bentley



Black adder and regularly coloured adder

Sparrowhawk Spotted

The sparrowhawk is a small bird of prey that can be found in all kinds of habitats and often visits gardens looking for its prey - small birds like finches, tits and sparrows.

The sparrowhawk is one of our smallest birds of prey, the male being somewhere between a blackbird and a collared dove in size. The female is larger, up to the size of a feral pigeon. Sparrowhawks are excellent bird hunters, catching small species like finches, sparrows and tits; sometimes they ambush their prey from a perch, while other times they may fly low, suddenly changing direction to fool it. (<https://www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk/>)

Photo by Micky Bloomfield



Happy New Year from the AMEN team

In December we were pleased to be able to send out 2962 shoeboxes to our Romanian partners. A team of five volunteers (including Amen Trustees Chris, Sharon and Simon) spent a week in Romania helping to distribute the boxes and minister alongside the partners.

Thank you for all your hard work collecting boxes, donating funds and praying for their transportation and delivery.

Here are some of Simon's pictures from the trip.

Best Wishes for 2025.

**Janet White
Amen Trust**



BENTLEY COMMUNITY STORES

Welcome to 2025!

As our regular customers will tell you, we are not just a shop, we are a 'social hub' where you will find a friendly face and a kind word. Just pop in for a chat if you feel a bit lonely or fed up with the winter.

The shop stocks so much beyond bread, milk and groceries. We sell stamps and shampoo, wild bird food and feeders for our feathered friends, cat and dog food for your pets. We also offer a dry cleaning service and much more.

Where possible we source local products, which we sell at very competitive prices. For example our Hoxne free range eggs are only £1.70 for 6. Large meat pies from Country Pies in Capel are £6.45.

A variety of fresh bread is delivered daily. We have been using Blackberry Bakery for a year now and their bread has proved very popular. If you haven't tried it, you are really missing out. If there's anything special you require, please let us know.

Our volunteer buyers work hard to offer the best products at the best prices.

If you would like to join our team of volunteers, either serving in the shop or working behinds the scenes, please get in touch.

Remember we are non-profit making and are a great asset to the village. We hope more of you will come and see us soon.

We are open 7 days a week:

Monday to Friday 9am until 1.30pm

Saturday 9am until 12 noon and

Sunday 9am until 11am

You can contact us at info@bentleystores.co.uk We look forward to seeing

MAJOR PLANNING APPLICATIONS UPDATES

Brockley Wood Quarry and Waste Processing Plant - SCC/0105/22B

Suffolk County Council are currently considering the re-application responses.

According to the Planning Officer it is not anticipated that the Development and Regulation Committee will be considering this re-application at their next meeting in February.

The public are free to attend the meeting when the Development and Regulation Committee do meet to discuss this.

Grove Farm Solar Farm

No news on this yet.

The Parish Council will keep residents updated on both applications via the Bentley Facebook page, Parish Council meetings and The Bugle.

Marianne Munday, Chair Bentley Parish Council.

PROPOSED CONSERVATION AREA - BENTLEY HISTORIC CORE

Babergh District Council have extended the consultation deadline to

21st February 2025.

Information about the proposed Conservation Area can be viewed on Babergh's website - <https://www.babergh.gov.uk/conservation-area-consultations>

If you would like to send in a comment you can do so by

email to: heritage@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

or by post: Heritage Team, Babergh District Council, Endeavour House, Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX



The Scrabble Club meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 2.30 pm in the Village Hall Committee Room.

If you would like a gentle game of Scrabble, a cup of tea or coffee and a chat please come along and join us.

Dates of the meetings are shown on the Bugle diary page. **Robin Owen**

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Bentley Parish Council Meeting took place at Bentley Village Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 2 January 2025

Eight Councillors, District Councillor Dave Busby, Tree Warden, Footpath Warden, Speedwatch Co-ordinator and 5 members of the public attended the meeting. Apologies were received from County Councillor Georgia Hall.

Planning – There were no planning decisions or new Planning Application.

However a new notification had been picked up on Babergh Planning site – re Development by a Statutory Undertaker – Installation of 2 No 8M Light poles nr Martins Hill Cottage – Babergh Planning have been asked to provide more details.

Reports were received from County Councillor Georgia Hall, & Speedwatch Co-ordinator. District Councillor Busby spoke at the meeting – 2025 is going to be a very challenging year.

Matters discussed

- Bentley Bridge Barrier & the re-routing of footpath . - Local landowner has been in discussions with contractors who are carrying out works and told the meeting the biggest oak will be saved.
- Bentley Historic Core Appraisal was discussed – Babergh District Council are holding a Public Meeting on 16 January 2025 2-5pm at St Mary's Church.
- Grant applications for insertion into the Budget were discussed and awarded.
- It was agreed that the Precept be uplifted by £500 and the form was duly signed.
- Elan City Warranty Extension for SIDS was deferred until February meeting
- Horse Chestnut Tree – Junction Grove Road/Capel Road – SCC have been contacted re ownership of the triangle.
- Lorry Watch – 19 lorries recorded for December.
- Affordable Housing – Zoom meeting to be arranged for March with Hastoe housing association.
- Traffic calming /Weight Restriction – SCC felt there was not sufficient HGV traffic coming through the village to justify a weight restriction. However, it was agreed that Unsuitable for HGV signs positioned at either end of Station Road/Capel Road, and Bentley Hall Road/Church Road would help drivers keep to the prescribed lorry routes.
- Playing Field Society – Letter of thanks sent to Maritime FC – School to be contacted re notice board

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m. Full draft minutes are available on the P C website - <http://bentleysuffolkparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

Dear Bugle reader, its nearly a year since I had the privilege to become the Rector for St. Marys church, and what a privilege that has been. St. Mary's Bentley is now part of a four parish group, called a 'Benefice'. So in practical terms, that means, I have four parish churches to serve as Rector, Bentley, Brantham, East Bergholt and Tattingstone. And it has been totally amazing to see how the four individual congregations have worked so well together, as well as maintaining each parishes local worship.



I absolutely love worshipping in the beautiful village church at Bentley, and always the welcome is warm, (as is the church with good heating!) and the hospitality with refreshments after each service is second to none! Bentley is stand-out in its community spirit, with so many opportunities already, which is a real credit to all who make these happen, but I wanted to let you know of a couple of things which are new in the parish.

The first new thing I'd like to let you know about is our new '**Connect**' Service, which is the first Sunday of each month, and this is where all four parishes join for a 10.00am service with a difference. These services rotate around the Benefice and have blend of the best of tradition and the best of more new and contemporary styles of worship, from organ to a modern guitar/vocal led band - all within one service. They are a great introduction to church if you are not used to it, with their easy to understand format, warm welcome and interesting interview of a different person each time. so why not come along. **The next Bentley Connect is on the 6th of April!**

The other new thing, is we have recently started a new **church youth group** – for any young people, 13-15's, and again this is for all four parishes. At the moment we are a small group of about seven young people, meeting each Thursday at 7.00 till 8.30pm at the Rectory, Rectory Lane, Brantham, for 'Fun, Friendship and Faith' – and each evening we have fun games, food/snacks, and look at something different in the Bible. You might know of someone who would like to come along and try this group for themselves. No-one has to believe anything, either before they join, or afterwards, but this is a great place for young people who are keen to make new friends, and who also want to find out more about God for themselves. If you would like to know more, please contact me on the details posted below.

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It's been so good to meet lots of people from the parish in the last ten months, and if I have not met you yet, I look forward to doing so.

With very kindest regards

Rev. Chris, Rector Tel. [07566-871270](tel:07566-871270) – e-mail: revchris@constablebenefice.org



Damp and mould has built up in our home over the winter. It started around the windows but now it's spread. I've been chasing our letting agency, who say they'll speak to our landlord but there's been no action and I'm really worried about how this might affect our health. Our tenancy agreement isn't up for six months, what can I do?

You've done the right thing by reporting the issue to your letting agency. It's not always easy to work out the cause of damp and mould, and your landlord might suggest that something you're doing is contributing to it. However, your landlord will be responsible for the issue if it's being caused by structural problems or disrepair such as a leaking roof or bad insulation.

Damp is when an area of your property doesn't dry out, often because it's cold. Damp can lead to mould, which is a fungus that grows in areas where warm damp air condenses on cold surfaces, like window frames. On our website www.citizensadvice.org.uk you can find [information which will help you work out what type of damp you have](#), who is responsible and what you can do about it. You should also check your tenancy agreement for mentions of repairs and damp.

Your landlord is responsible for fixing a damp problem if it's making your home unsafe to live in. For example, this could be if it's affecting your health or the health of someone living in the property with you. Your landlord will also be responsible if the damp is related to repairs they should have carried out, for example if the roof is damaged. They would also have to cover the cost of repairs to any items damaged by the damp, including carpets and furniture.

One of the things that can contribute to damp and mould is condensation. One of the best ways to prevent condensation is to keep homes well-heated and ventilated, but high heating costs and cold weather can make this difficult for lots of us. If you're finding it hard to insulate and heat your home, [check our website to see if you're eligible for support](#).

There are steps you can take to make sure you're not contributing to a damp problem, and making it worse. Avoid drying clothes on heaters, blocking air vents, or using portable gas heaters. However, showering, cooking, and laundry are the kinds of things everyone expects to be able to do in their homes. If the property can't be heated and ventilated adequately to cope with normal day-to-day living activities, then it's the property that's the problem, not your behaviour.

If your landlord is responsible for the damp in your home but doesn't do anything about it, there are steps you can take, like reporting them to the local authority. And as a private renter, if you've got evidence from a health professional that damp is making you ill, you may be able to get free legal advice through Legal Aid.

As a last resort, you might decide you just want to leave the property but getting out of a tenancy agreement early can be difficult. Check our website but remember this can be hard and there might be things you haven't tried yet.

If you're feeling stuck, always speak to your local Citizens Advice or call our Adviceline on 0800 144 8848 for personalised support.

CAPEL ST MARY LIBRARY

Capel Library welcomes everyone! We are a small and friendly library based in the heart of the Capel community. We offer books, internet access, children's activities, tea and coffee, all with a friendly smile.

Warm Welcome

Suffolk Libraries have always provided safe, warm spaces for anyone to come and spend time in or find support and resources. This winter, as part of the national Warm Spaces campaign, we'll be bringing in new initiatives to help people stay warm, stay safe and stay connected. At Capel Library you can come and enjoy a free hot drink, charge your devices, collect some free essential items like period products, hand soap, cereal bars, and we always have friendly faces!

The Friends of Capel Library Community Cinema

February's Film: Twisters

Our film night will be on the 18th February and we'll be showing Twisters; "Haunted by a devastating encounter with a tornado, Kate Cooper gets lured back to the open plains by her friend, Javi, to test a groundbreaking new tracking system. She soon crosses paths with...a charming but reckless social-media superstar who thrives on posting his storm-chasing adventures. As storm season intensifies, Kate, Tyler and their competing teams find themselves in a fight for their lives as multiple systems converge over central Oklahoma."

Doors open at 7pm, film starts at 7:30pm. Tickets in advance: £4.50 for members, £5 for non-members, £5.50 on the door. Fully licensed bar!

The Friends of Capel Library Community Cinema



Tuesday 18th February 2025 at Capel Library

Doors Open: 7pm, film Starts: 7.30pm

Tickets in advance: £4.50 members, £5 non-members

On the door: £5.50

Fully Licensed Bar & Air Conditioning

**SUFFOLK
LIBRARIES**

Please keep an eye out on the Capel Library Facebook page for details of what March's film will be!

Home Library Service

We're currently looking for a Home Library Service volunteer. If this is something you'd be interested in doing or would like some more information, please contact Capel Library.

Regular Events in the Library

Tot Rock & Stay & Play: Every Thursday from 9.30 onwards; songs, and stories followed by a more social play session with free refreshments.

Minecraft: Children of all ages welcome and those under eight must be accompanied by an adult. Please bring with you your tablet or phone equipped with Minecraft Pocket Edition or Minecraft Windows 10 Edition. Try to remember to charge your device beforehand! Contact the library for more details.

Lego: Every 4th Saturday we hold our Monthly Lego Club. This is now completely free and you can drop in anytime between 10:30-12:30. We can also get out some Duplo or mega blocks for younger ones. Come and join us for some building fun!

Sunday Crafts: Every week from 10.30 to 12.30. All children & families welcome, no booking is required and there is no charge. Come and get crafty at Capel Library.

We welcome book donations, and don't forget we sell cards and stamps too!

We're sorry to say that newspapers will no longer be available to read at the library due to funding.

OPENING TIMES

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 9am-12.30 & 2.00pm-5.30pm

Wednesday: 9am-12.30

Thursday: 9am-12.30

Friday: 2.00pm-5.30pm

Saturday: 9.00am-3.00pm

Sunday: 10.00am-3.00pm

Telephone: 01473 311699

e-mail: capel.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk **Web:** www.suffolklibraries.co.uk

THE FRIENDS OF CAPEL LIBRARY

100 CLUB DRAW RESULTS

December

£20	Lyn Knowler	£10	Maureen Watts	£5	Roy Rogers
£5	Sandra Bumphrey				

Prizes can be collected from The Library as can renewal forms for 2025.

Thank you for your support.

Bob Perkin

BENTLEY REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

“For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

(2 Corinthians 5v21)

We all like a good deal - paying a reasonable price for something which works really well. Even better, if something was a real bargain!

In the verse above from the Bible we have a transaction like no other.

It speaks of the Lord Jesus Christ, “**who knew no sin**”. That is, He was completely pure and holy - He never did, spoke, nor thought a wrong thing, and never failed to be obedient to God the Father.

Yet, for those who come to repent of their sins and believe and trust in Jesus, our sins are put to His account - that is, He bore the punishment of them on the cross in our place, so that we are forgiven. “**For he hath made him *to be* sin for us..**”

Likewise, His obedience is put to our account, as if we had lived His perfect life - so we are treated as righteous by God. “**..that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.**”

In this way, Christians are made right with God, reconciled to Him, and will go to Heaven when they die.

Come and hear about the way of salvation in Jesus Christ, particularly on Sunday mornings at 10.45am.

Regular Weekly Services:

Prayer and Bible Study – Tuesdays 7pm

Worship Services – Sundays 10.45am and 3pm

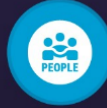
Admin: 07814 465222 www.bentley-reformed-baptist.uk

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OUR MISSION KEEPING SUFFOLK SAFE

We are courageous, professional, community, compassionate



My first article in 2025, how has it been for you so far? Have you managed to keep up with your New Year Resolutions? I don't mind January as a rule, I always have a good sort out and declutter, try to go on a diet and get myself back in the gym. By February, it's still so dark and dismal that its quite a tough month to get through but March is soon round the corner and very slowly we'll notice some changes.

I was just looking back at what I wrote this time last year and sadly things haven't changed for the better with the use of social media apps, not just children but adults as well are finding themselves in bother because they are using them inappropriately. I advised a young person to come off social media the other day and their chin hit the floor and they point blank refused.

Scams, I don't know how scammers can live with themselves. Worryingly these scammers are getting more and more advanced and convincing and we are seeing more and more people lose their life savings as a result. **Please please do not fall for it. If you do not know who is on the phone, please hang up.** If it's important they will leave a message. **Never give your bank details to anyone.** As I write this there are people pretending to be Police Officers. We will never ask for your bank details, I can assure you of that.



Every quarter the East Babergh Parish and Police Forum takes place. This is a meeting for any resident who lives in my patch, as well as those who live in the Hadleigh and Nayland area. It has been running for many years and it's a way for you to come and meet your local Officer and to hear a report made from the locality Inspector. This is chance for you to raise any concerns you might have, and we might be able to answer them at the time or we take the questions away and provide an answer at a later date. I can't emphasise how important these meetings are. **The next one will be held at Hadleigh Town hall on the 19th March at 19:30.**

If you need to report a crime, please use the online service on the Suffolk Police website or call 101. PC Katie Jarrett.

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